

### III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- PLEASE FIND BELOW A MARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH PRESENT STATUS DELINEATED
  - THE CLAIMS ARE HEREIN AMENDED, CANCELED, OR ADDED TO, SO AS TO EVENTUATE IN THE NEW SET OF PENDING CLAIMS INDICATED BELOW. THIS LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR VERSIONS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION.

-- The status of each claim is indicated after the claim number by use of a parenthetical identifier selected from: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Withdrawn – currently amended), (Previously presented), (New), and (Not entered). Claim text is provided for each claim in the listing except for the claims status “canceled” or “not entered.” Only claims having the status of “Currently amended” or “Withdrawn – currently amended” include markings to indicate changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version of the claims. The text of any deleted matter is shown by strike-through, except that double brackets placed before and after deleted characters of five or fewer consecutive characters may be used. The text of any added subject matter is shown by underlining the added text. Claims that were previously canceled that are reinstated here, if any, are reinstated by adding the claim as a “(New)” claim with a new claim number.

1. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for authenticating a digital medium comprising:

monitoring a transfer rate of read-data from a media read device to a computing device resulting from the reading of valid data stored on a digital medium at a physical location of the medium;

determining, at the computing device, from the monitored transfer rate, the presence of an anomaly region on the digital medium corresponding to the physical location of the valid data on the digital medium by identifying a modification in said transfer rate at such anomaly region from other regions surrounding such anomaly region on the digital medium; and

authenticating the digital medium based on a characteristic of the anomaly region.

20. (Currently amended) A system for authenticating a digital medium comprising:

a computing device;

a media read device;

a monitor that monitors for monitoring a transfer rate of read data from said media read device to said computing device resulting from due to the reading of valid data stored on a digital medium at a physical location of the medium;

an anomaly detector that determines, for determining from the monitored transfer rate, the presence of an anomaly region on the digital medium corresponding to the physical location of the valid data on the digital medium by identifying a modification in the transfer rate of the read data at such anomaly region from other regions surrounding such anomaly region on the digital medium from said media device to said computing device; and

an authenticator that authenticates for authenticating the digital medium based on a characteristic of the anomaly region.